REPORT NO. 79-3-15

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

REPORT OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Francis Marion National Forest

STATE: South Carolina

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 414,700 acres

DATE: April 19, 1979

PERCENT COVERAGE: 50%[1/]

AIRCRAFT: Aero Commander 500B

CREW: Stafford Fort, Wambaw Ranger District; Gene Forte, Witherbee Ranger District; Robert Bassett, Aerial Survey Team

SURVEY OBJECTIVES: To determine current status of bark beetle activity, particularly southern pine beetle, on the Francis Marion National Forest.

SURVEY RESULTS

No recent tree mortality was seen except for single-tree spots and fire damage.

CONCLUSIONS

Southern pine beetle activity is currently low. The low population is partly attributable to salvage by private operators[2/] who actively seek out and harvest small spots with encouragement from District personnel. Continued ground surveillance, particularly around thinned plantations where ice damage would be heaviest, is recommended. A flight map composite was given to District flight crew at the conclusion of the flight.

1/ Using flight lines four miles apart and observing a one mile viewing width on both sides of aircraft.

2/ As indicated by Stafford Fort.

For any additional information, Contact

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